

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/663,759

Examiner

Hai C. Pham

Applicant(s)

TOMOYA OHSUGI

Art Unit

2861

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment filed 06/01/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 4-15, 18-24, 28-39 and 42-49.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
  1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

### REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: claims 4, 9, 28 and 33 are allowed at least for the reason that the prior art of record does not teach or reasonably suggest the light source unit use for an image forming apparatus comprising a plurality of coupling lenses each corresponding to a light source of the plurality of light sources, a coupling lens holding unit having a first and a second holding faces aligned approximately in parallel to an optical axis of a first coupling lens of said plurality of coupling lenses, wherein at least one of said first coupling lens and said holding face is provided with a lubricating means at a location in contact there between, as set forth in the claimed combination.

Claims 5-8, 10-12, 29-32, 34-36 and 49 are allowed at least for the reason that the prior art of record does not teach or reasonably suggest the light source unit use for an image forming apparatus comprising a plurality of coupling lenses each corresponding to a light source of the plurality of light sources, a coupling lens holding unit having a first and a second holding faces aligned approximately in parallel to an optical axis of a first coupling lens of said plurality of coupling lenses, wherein a portion of said first coupling lens in contact with said holding face is subjected to surface hardening, as set forth in the claimed combination.

Claims 13 and 37 are allowed at least for the reason that the prior art of record does not teach or reasonably suggest the light source unit use for an image forming apparatus comprising a plurality of coupling lenses each corresponding to a light source of the plurality of light sources, a coupling lens holding unit having a first and a

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second holding faces aligned approximately in parallel to an optical axis of a first coupling lens of said plurality of coupling lenses, an elastically pressing member pressing a side portion of said first coupling lens against said first and said second holding faces so as to thereby hold said first coupling lens, wherein said elastically pressing member is formed of planar elastic material, and wherein ends of said elastically pressing member are fixed to said coupling lens holding unit so as to hold in between said ends said portion of said first coupling lens in contact with said holding faces, and wherein said elastically pressing member has a coefficient of linear expansion approximately equal to that of a material of said coupling lens holding unit, as set forth in the claimed combination.

Claims 14-15, 18-24, 38-39 and 42-48 are allowed at least for the reason that the prior art of record does not teach or reasonably suggest the light source unit use for an image forming apparatus comprising a plurality of coupling lenses each corresponding to a light source of the plurality of light sources, a coupling lens holding unit having a first and a second holding faces aligned approximately in parallel to an optical axis of a first coupling lens of said plurality of coupling lenses, a light source holding unit holding a first light source of said plurality of light sources attached to said coupling lens holding unit, said first light source corresponding to said first coupling lens, wherein said coupling lens holding unit, a package unit of a semiconductor laser diode, and said light source holding unit are formed of materials which are selected to satisfy the claimed relationships with respect to the coefficients of linear thermal

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expansion of said first coupling lens, said coupling lens holding unit, said package unit and said light source holding unit, as set forth in the claimed combination.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hai C. Pham whose telephone number is (571) 272-2260. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30AM - 5:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matthew Luu can be reached on (571) 272-7663. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



HAI PHAM  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

July 9, 2007